

offered JRB 1/28/03  
Dkt. 65507-B/JPW/JHB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Louis Paul Deiss, et al.  
U.S. Serial No. : 09/499,553  
Filed : February 7, 2000  
For : GENE IDENTIFICATION METHOD

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
August 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the subject application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please introduce new claims 20-28 as follows:

28  
28.(New) A method for the identification of genes that are essential for the maintenance of a specific cell